

Kase from page A1

what I want to do and she respects that."

Growing up in Dearborn Heights, Kase was inspired to police work by a late uncle, Chester Kelley, who had retired from the Detroit Police Department.

He was a Renaissance Center security guard when Farmington Hills hired him and paid his way through the police academy. He likes the Farmington Hills department and plans to retire in nine and a half years.

Kase, who also won police officer of the year in 1995, was cited for the following incidents:

On Feb. 26, Kase was investigating a sniping incident on Nine Mile between Haggerty and Halstead when he heard a pellet gun fire and realized the crime was still in progress.

Two vehicles stopped with windows shot out, and Kase noticed that the glass from one of the windows had fallen into the road in front of a particular

house. Kase and another officer knocked on the door and ultimately arrested two teenage boys who had been shooting at the cars.

On Sept. 4, Kase pulled over a car on 12 Mile Road for having an altered registration tab and discovered that neither driver nor passenger had identification.

While arresting the driver, Kase saw the passenger put something under the seat. It turned out to be a loaded gun. Both men were arrested and were found to have records of armed robbery.

Kase has also earned five citations, four letters of appreciation, three unit citations, four departmental commendations, one professional service award, one life saving award and a chief's citation.

Kase was recognized Feb. 10 during ceremonies at the Brodhead-Farmington Hills VFW Post 2269.

Hockey program offered in April

Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills is hosting an eight week Spring Hockey Instructional Program, from April 3 through June 2.

Programs will be available in three levels of experience: novice, ages 4-6; youth, ages 6-

14; adult, age 18 and up. Full hockey equipment is required, although jerseys will be provided.

For more information, call (248) 478-1600. Suburban Training Center is located at 23995 Freedom Park Drive, Suite 200.

Safe boating course held Feb. 26

Birmingham Power Squadron will offer the United States Power Squadron Safe Boating Class at 7:30 p.m. Mondays beginning Feb. 26 at Farmington High School.

This eight-week class, which has been taken by more than 3 million people nationwide, is open to anyone 12 or older. Graduates of the course are eligible to receive a boating safe-

ty certificate that satisfies the requirements of the state for operation of a personal water craft. Most insurers will give class graduates a discount on their boat insurance.

For more course information, call 489-3333, or visit the Birmingham Power Squadron Web site at www.birminghampowersquadron.com

CRIME PREVENTION NEWS

Sounds too good to be true? It probably is

OK, here we go again. At least twice a year, our residents fall prey to the notorious pigeon drop. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the "Pigeon Drop," here it is.

The Pigeon Drop dates back 400 years; this is perhaps the oldest and most common swindle there is.

Every year thousands of people report incidents of criminal fraud. It is estimated that for each reported swindle, two more go unreported because the victims are too embarrassed to admit they've been swindled.

Although con artists prey on the elderly, anyone can be victimized by their schemes. Your only defense against these professional smooth-talkers is to be aware of their tactics.

There are several variations to this scheme, but all present a promise of "something for nothing" for the victim. A typical scenario involves two con artists. The first approaches the mark (victim), engages him in idle conversation. The second rushes up, excited over having just "found" an envelope containing \$30,000. Also in the envelope is a note stating the money is a pay-off on a big drug deal. After debating whether to return the money, the con man calls a friend who is an "attorney" for advice.

Since the money was obtained illegally, the attorney sees no reason why they shouldn't keep it. He suggests, however, they wait a few days while he checks to see if the police are investigating.

One of the impostors then suggests that, as an act of good faith, each of the three put up \$5,000. Usually the scammers drive the mark to his bank; he or

she is the first to put up his "good faith" money.

I have tried to analyze why anyone would fall for this scam and have come to the conclusion that in addition to greed and gullibility, that perhaps confusion should be added to the mix as well.

In a recent incident, an 88-year-old resident was shopping at a discount store in our city and was approached by a woman in her 30s. The suspect approached the victim in the parking lot of the store and showed her a bag of money, which she said she had just found. She convinced the victim to go to her bank and withdraw money and give it to her as a sign of good faith so they could split the "\$40,000" that was in the bag the suspect said she found.

The victim withdrew \$600 from the bank and gave it to the suspect, only to be told that it was not enough money.

Accommodatingly, the victim took the suspect to her home!

The suspect then took \$150 in cash, a diamond ring, and a gold lira coin necklace out of a dresser drawer. The victim had let the suspect into the home and let her take the items.

The suspect told the victim to drive her to her bank so she could get some "good faith money" too. The suspect was dropped off in West Bloomfield, where she disappeared. The vic-



Juliette McGlinch

tim proceeded to the police department, with her son, to file a report.

In an earlier article, I asked how parents who tell their children to be cautious, can themselves be so foolish. Maybe it is time for role reversal. As children of elderly parents, we should put a safeguard on their bank accounts such as needing two signatures for withdrawal. This could be worked out with their financial institutions.

I know that is easier said than done, but it is worth a try. Our senior citizens must be informed of what is happening. To the adult children, I can only say that you will have to figure out what works best between you and your parents.

I have been in the situation where I have had to take control of my parents' affairs, and I will be the first to tell you that it is not easy.

I fully understand that our

parents are not willing to give up their freedom, and I am sure that is how they perceive loss of their financial control. Offer to go shopping with them or suggest that they take a friend with them. If they insist on going alone, drill them on the "Pigeon Drop."

Don't get taken

■ Never expect something for nothing.

■ Do not turn money over to strangers who promise a substantial gain at a minimal risk. Very few legitimate transactions require cash.

■ Do not invite strangers to your home.

■ Banks may consider posting "Pigeon Drop" material to give to someone that they think may be victimized.

■ If something seems "too good to be true," it probably is.

LOSS OF BLADDER CONTROL

If coughing, sneezing, exercising, or other movements cause you to leak urine, you may have stress urinary incontinence (SUI) - the most common form of incontinence in women.

Physicians in your area are currently conducting a research study to test the safety and effectiveness of an investigational drug being studied for the treatment of SUI.

Study participants will receive the following at no cost:

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1-877-337-4448
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NAME:
Kathy Wilcox

OCCUPATION:
Pet Store Owner

DEPENDENTS:
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3 Cocker Spaniels
2 Geckos
6 Box Turtles
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